

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

S. KATO, et al.

Application No.:

10/796,207

Filed:

March 10, 2004

For:

VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING

METHOD THEREFOR

Group Art Unit:

3749

Examiner:

K. O'Malley

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 December 28, 2004

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants hereby respectfully petition for an extension of time to permit filing a response within the second month subsequent to expiration of the shortened statutory period set in the outstanding Office Action mailed July 28, 2004. A Credit Card Payment Form including the amount of \$450.00 to cover the required fee for the requested extension of time is attached hereto.

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Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.30414C55), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/sjg